

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Appropriations Committee
H-307
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Appropriations Committee
H-307
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwomen DeLauro and Roybal-Allard and Ranking Members Granger and Fleischmann,

Thank you for your continued support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP). As you finalize the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we respectfully ask you to fund NSGP at a level that reflects increased risks to the nonprofit sector. Presently, the House and Senate drafts recommend \$180 million in funding for the program. During conference, we urge you to ensure the NSGP has robust funding to meet the increasing and extraordinary needs of at-risk populations, at a time of heightened threat to faith-based and charitable organizations.

Tragically, another mass attack recently occurred on a faith-based institution, in what the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is calling a “terrorism-related” matter. The armed hostage event at the Congregation Beth Israel synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, could easily have ended tragically. This attack targeted the Jewish communityⁱ and underscored the rise in extremists posing a threat to the Jewish community and to other religious, racial, and ethnic groups. It was one of many incidents reported this past year of racially and ethnically motivated violence that continues to target faith- and community-based organizations, including shooting, arson, bombing, assault, and property damage.ⁱⁱ

We are grateful for the FBI’s hostage rescue team and the state and local law enforcement and first responders who successfully ended the hostage crisis. But the enormity and trauma of the event, much of it live-streamed, reverberated in communities across the country. We worry these types of events serve as a catalyst to energize more extremists and terrorist groups to act in kind.ⁱⁱⁱ

Congress established NSGP to improve the physical security and security activities of at-risk faith-based and charitable organizations. These organizations often cannot alone shoulder the investments required to deter, detect, and prevent violent extremist attacks. For this reason, and in recognition of the increased threat environment under which these organizations must navigate, we respectfully encourage you to increase the NSGP funding in FY2022.

We look forward to working together to protect at-risk and vulnerable nonprofits from today's increasing extremist and hate-motivated threats. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress

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Jake Auchincloss
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Don Bacon
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Troy Balderson
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ⁱ Washington Post, “FBI investigating Texas synagogue attack as terrorism as U.K. takes two teens into custody,” January 17, 2022.

ⁱⁱ Jewish Federations of North America, “Annual Threat Chronology,” January 3, 2022.

ⁱⁱⁱ Washington Post, “Texas synagogue standoff ends with hostages freed, suspect dead,” updated January 16, 2022.